

Evening. — Mr. Mercer has gyrated, within himself for now four years, and has had, I understand, a fiery ordeal of it. He has got through the Woods at last and walked out into daylight on the side of — Episcopacy! You know he left Princeton under the influence of hostile feelings to our strict creed or orthodoxy. He felt the need of freedom. He was not satisfied with the spirit of even an Alexander. In a word Princeton Atmosphere disagreed with him; he grew spiritually dyspeptic and came away leaving his lady among the orthodoxy. Here he plunged into philosophy, investigated the whole circle of theological inquiry, and wrapped himself in darkness. I saw a letter which he wrote Dr. Spemann sometime ago, and its tone was very sad; his later ones are better. I intend to see him shortly and "reconnoitre his position". If he is settled in mind, we have then I hope reached his future station, at least made one of those rapid stages which the advancing spirit makes in the life journey. Good then be to him & God's spirit with him. If he only doest worth his time & talents, in contending for the little points of faith which no doubt have puzzled him most and caused him greatest sorrow.

Many a pass over the lower ridges, is more severe than the Alpine Col to which it leads. If would say ^{ever} pray for him, if I believe more firmly in the efficacy of prayer. Oh Dana I stand in great danger from my old & stubborn enemy, a fatalistic tendency, dressing itself in the garb of Calvinism to make itself an angel of light. Pray for me. It seems sometimes as if I was on a lee shore in a gale. As if every truth, which long appeared ought to have confirmed & endared to me, &

slipping from under my feet and hurrying me into an abyss. It is mockery when I talk of love - it is hating when I act with zeal. How insatiable is our heart! And this is sometimes afraid to scan it too closely. It gives me some comfort to look at children. They play, smile, are sweet & good & then instant & wayward, repent, cry, are comforted, receive no favor, run to play, disobey and are punished, rebel and are subdued again, — in one unbroken cycle from infancy to manhood. We are children in the upper life. Our types are children in this. But they get right at length — so shall we. Along suffering must the parents be; unweaned, forgetful, blind, severe, wise; — so must God. So is God. Dear Father! Why must I fail not; great is thy faithfulness, though our soul not consumed. Oh lead us by still waters into green pastures — the pastures of the land of Beulah! David — my brother, are you in tempest now? are you always placid? ~~do the seas and rivers~~
~~waves always threaten us, sharp winds upon the water,~~
~~to cover us over and over again?~~

I send you some presbyterian. In the last one you will find an extract of two ~~parts~~ of some letters I received from friends in Europe. In the Seminary Chronicle you'll see one of a series of pieces I am obliged to write for our County paper, to catch the attention of the people in the interior. Don't imagine that I portray my-

self. God forbid that I should be such a hypocrite. My
Conscience grows as sore as my finger in writing them.

I returned last week, after being out all winter.

Havint done a great deal, except drawing the notice of the
Churches upon the enterprise. I traversed parts of 7 Counties
from Bellefonte to Danville and formed 4 County
Ct. Societies; the greatest difficulty ^{is} in the want of
men and exceeding difficulty in obtaining them of a
suitable Character. A good man can be easily pur-
sued in any one of these Counties. I expect to remain
in Phil. until 1 May. And then return to Lycoming
to traverse regular all the waters flowing into the
west side of the W. Branch. By fall I hope to be
pretty well through and go south into Virginia. The
Lord grants me one soul — just one, — but nevertheless
if he will, — and you tenthousand.

I missed seeing Dany by two days. How much
she wishes to see you, you may guess yourself. Hope she
will be happy where she is; pretty sure of it, from
what she says in her last to Mrs. W. and from her nat-
ural temperament.

Again adieu

At this time Adios

Peter.

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Rev? David Trumbull
Malpaiso Chile.
South America?

PAID

Ship Seaman,
Baltimore, Md.
(to sail on the 10th)

The General Assembly refus'd
to abide the Presbyterian to reconsider
their verdict against Mr. Queen.
They did so & have referred it
to the S. S. Let the whole of that
subject to come up again
this morn. —